BATH ANECDOTES

AND

CHARACTERS:

BY THE

GENIUS LOCI.

Hold the Mirror up to Nature, to shew Virtue her own Feature, Scorn her own Image, and the very Age and Body of the Time his Form and Pressure.

SHAKESPEARE.

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BATH ANECDOTES AND CHARACTERS.

SOME few years ago there lived in the neighbourhood of Bath an old Frenchman, whose name was Parys, at least that was the name he was known by: His father had been a farmer under the Duke of Orleans; but a disposition to ramble induced this son to part with his patrimonial estate for an annuity of about two hundred livres, which was regularly paid

paid him to his death. With this income he came over to England, and ended his days at Bath.

Monſieur Parys had had a good claſſical education, and was not unacquainted with the politer languages of modern Europe, nor unſkilled in their hiſtory; but his chief ſtudy was chemiſtry, to which he in a moſt eminent manner turned all his thoughts and his purſuits. The art of tranſmuting metals, and an univerſal medicine, were particular objects of his attention, and engroſſed both his time and his income. Many years he in vain purſued the ſhadow of a ſubſtance, which he conſtantly affirmed was near, but never yet attained.

He

He found little pecuniary emolument from his chemical knowledge, and was often more beholden to charity for a dinner, than to the profits of his alembick.

He was a man of infinite politeneſs, and in his behaviour a gentleman; but unfortunately his country made him ſuſpected, and his poverty rendered him contemptible. He lived, or rather he exiſted, for ſome years, in an obſcure place near Bath, called the Dog-Kennel, being originally built for the huntſmen and the hounds of Mr. Allen,

"The friend of Fielding, War-
"burton, and Pope."

Here did this philoſopher dwell, often with little, and ſometimes with no food; and yet, in this ſituation, a pipe of tobacco, and his books, alternately ſcientific and religious, made him behold the riches, the ſplendors, and the luxuries about him——not with contempt, but without envy.

Monſieur Parys died in the year 1777, without any other publick teſtimony of his abilities, than an excellent compoſition in the form of blacking to preſerve the boots and ſhoes of ſportſmen.

I ſay public teſtimony, for in his books and manuſcripts, which were ſold after his death by a woman who lived

lived many years with him a wife, or as a wife, and which afterwards came into my poſſeſſion, I found many aſtoniſhing proofs of his learning and acquirements in the occult ſciences. Indeed his experiments became in general abortive, like blaſted fruit which drops before it ripens.

His ſtudies alſo were directed to obtain the converſation of the Genii or ſpirits of the air; and but for the want of a little more prudence and attention, he would have obtained his wiſh: As it was, they were in waiting for the completion of his work, when ſickneſs put a ſtop to his operations, and death cloſed the ſcene before his wiſhes were accompliſhed.

His obſervations and his papers ſurvived himſelf, which in ſome meaſure I wonder at, or that ignorance had not deſtroyed what to them muſt ſeem unlikely to be of any value. From a ſtall in Avon-ſtreet, I bought the whole library for five ſhillings! Of ſo little eſteem is oftentimes what is more precious than gold.

Some of theſe volumes contained preſcriptions for moſt of the diſeaſes of mankind, one (a folio) was almoſt filled with letters and petitions to great people, to whom Mr. Parys would gladly have communicated his invaluable diſcoveries; but I do not find evidences of that ſucceſs which he expected.

Were

Were a nobleman ſo ill as to baffle the ſkill of a Moyſey or Harrington, Mr. Parys, in the ſimplicity and humanity of his nature, would offer his ſervice, and an effectual remedy for his complaints; but whether on account of his being poor, or that the offer of his ſervices was not in a language ſufficiently intelligible, being often a ſtrange compound of Engliſh and French, ornamented with ſcraps of Latin, I cannot find theſe great people would venture to ſave their lives or healths, though at ſuch a certainty of ſucceſs. Parys was ſenſible enough of his poverty, and had not credit nor impudence enough to ſhew away in lace and bugles like the daring Graham.

Such was the hiſtory, ſuch the end of Parys,—if an end there can be to that man who left the means of attaining an intercourſe with the ſpirits of the air.

Peruſing in my ſtudy the papers of this very wonderful man———

But here let me guard my readers againſt expecting too much; my deſign is to furniſh to the world a Satire and a Moral Tale, to tell to the world what I have ſeen, not to diſcover the ſcientific mode by which I obtained the communication.

"And is this poſſible? (I ſaid in my reflections) Will the Genii hold converſe

converſe with mankind? "Can airy nothing have local habitation, voice, and form?" "Yes, certainly, (ſays a little figure, like Shakeſpear's *Oberon*) we have voice, form, viſibility, and communication of ideas; I have attentively awaited the call of ſome favourite of the occult ſciences, to ſhew to him the ſecrets of Bath;—I am the Genius of the place.—— Be not alarmed, thou ſon of ſcience, I have beheld thy careful attention, thy watchings and thy ſtudies, and am willing to reward thy labour and thy pains. It is not yet allowed thy own Genius to be viſible, nor whether it will hereafter be, is not allowed for me to declare, but in no caſe can ſuch a favour be obtained,

but by a continual practice of prudence, virtue, and religion.

If I felt a little tremor at the appearance of my new friend, the benevolence of his look ſoon chaſed it away. I felt myſelf as bold as the preſence of the Genius would allow; and I wiſhed him to inform me of the nature of himſelf and his race.

My deſign, he ſaid, is to inſtruct you in whatever may conduce to your advantage, that is, to make you more morally wiſe and good. He then proceeded:—

"Every mortal has a Genius who conſtantly attends and ſuperintends his

his concerns, his pleaſures, or his buſineſs. So has every county, town, or village: And the characteriſtic virtue or vice of the peculiar Genius generally directs the inhabitants of the country over which the Genius preſides; only that we are ſtill ſubordinate to laws within ourſelves, and powers that command us.

"So alſo a peculiar excellence of virtue or religion in a few individuals may ſo far prevail, as not only to change the diſpoſition of the inhabitants, but even to purify the diſpoſition of the Genius Loci himſelf; for our natures are capable of being acted on by ſublunary accidents, and even of becoming better or worſe, nothing under

under heaven being perfect. And there is a great deal of truth in these expressions,—"Such a man's genius "is cramped; such a man's genius is "extraordinary:" So the genius of Geminiani was celebrated for expression, and the genius of Handel for sublimity.

"Our locality is not less remarkable; it was in the pencil of a Raphael, in the chissel of a Praxiteles, in the finger of a Guest, and in the breath of a Fischer.

"And here, my good friend, let me caution you against one common error which mankind run into, taking passion or propensity for genius; for

for ſome men may almoſt be ſaid to have no genius at all; that is, their genius is of ſo low an order, as ſcarcely to be known even by the race of Genii themſelves; who ſometimes ſuffer their wards to throw off almoſt the ſemblance of rationality, and become like brute beaſts, aping the goat in their luſts, the ſwine in drunkenneſs, the wolf in ferocity, the fox in craft and fraud, without ever attaining to the courage of the lion, the wiſdom of the elephant, or the fidelity of the dog.

"Beware of your paſſions:—They only flatter to deceive and ruin; they promiſe to delight, to make you happy; but if you liſten to their

ſyren

ſyren charms, they will become your maſter, your tyrant, and your executioner. They will draw you into the bondage of ſin, and the inſtrument of your wretchedneſs and your luſt will receive from you a dagger in her breaſt, which ſhe will again thruſt into yours.

"The influences on the tempers of mankind flowing in natural and ſucceſſive order, are too regular to be the effect of chance, and conſequently are directed by a ſuperior power: And yet man is ſo much a free agent as to be anſwerable for his own miſconduct, not only to that authority from whence he has received the power of acting at all; but alſo to the

office,

office, ſituation, and ſtate of life, in which he lives or acts. Cowardice is an infirmity rather than a crime; but if a man who knows himſelf to be a coward undertakes any office in which cowardice may be prejudicial to the community, it is a crime of very conſiderable magnitude: In a military line its puniſhment is death, and ſo it ought in a civil magiſtrate, who quits his office, when as a magiſtrate he is wanted to puniſh evil doers.

"The good and the bad are not hidden from mankind; they are obvious enough to all, and no man has a right to find fault with thoſe laws which bind all alike.

"There

"There are good and evil Genii: for we are not, as ſome have ungeneroufly and inadvertently aſſerted, all prone to evil and miſchief. I am appointed to ſuperintend this place as long as it exiſts, and am one of the good or guardian Genii, who are perpetually at war with the wicked, becauſe they endeavour to ſubvert mankind, and counteract every thing we perform, or propoſe for their benefit, inſpiring into their minds evils of every kind. And where a mortal is ſo miſerable as to be ſeduced, and altogether renounce his good, ſuch a man runs on from one crime to another, till at laſt the virtuous Genius is forced to forſake him, and then his caſe is deplorable indeed. The good

may

may not improperly be called Genii, and the evil Dæmons.

" Beſides this, there are alſo ſeveral orders and degrees of principalities and powers. Thus the Prince of Gomorrah reſides alternately in Turkey and Italy; but then he has inferior miniſters, working their way and ſeducing parties in every country, where the increaſing corruptions of mankind will give them entrance.

" The Emperor of luxury has his chief ſeat in Aſia: but how many inſtances might be produced that he has his agents in moſt of the habitable parts of the world, exported in bales of ſilk, and brought into England in the retinue of a Nabob.

" Villages,

" Villages, towns, cities, and kingdoms, begin, increaſe, and are enlarged by induſtry and virtue; but being the work of men's hands, though guarded by us, they bear the marks of weakneſs, and are ſubject to diſeaſes, to ſubverſion, and decay. The efforts of a few virtuous and honeſt men cannot always prevent their doom; their only comfort will be, that when their country fell, they did not fail to exert all their abilities to prevent it.

" A departure from the plainneſs of dreſs and food inſenſibly forbodes, and indeed produces, a corruption of manners. Men are deſirous of luxuries, and they obtain the concomitant

tant vices: An eternal round of diſſipation intoxicates the underſtanding, and deprives their faculties of the due power of exertion; their religion is cold or inſincere; their charity hardly puts on the appearance of virtue, and they beſtow rather through oſtentation, or becauſe they would be thought to do as others do, than with a zeal and a deſire of doing good.

"The converſation of the Prieſthood is of the weakeſt and moſt frivolous kind, and if it aim at ſentiment, it is without the graces of religion, faith, and charity.

"The courage of the Military is without patriotiſm, and the principal

Commanders take the field to enrich themſelves rather than to promote their own glory, or their country's honour and advantage.

" Such are the ſymptoms of a falling ſtate; and if to this we ſee the councils either ignorant or corrupt, nothing but a miracle can ſave it.

" Genius of Britain, whither art thou fled?"

" I ſee you ſurpriſed that a Genius ſhould utter an apoſtrophé which ſeems to indicate lamentation; but, my friend, I would have you know, that the Genius of Bath is connected with and depends on the Genius of Britain:—Whenever, therefore, the kingdom at large is in a flouriſhing ſtate,

ſtate, Bath is ſure to be ſo too, and is as ſoon affected by the diſtreſſes. Hence then a natural ſympathy between us, who ſuperintend them both: The riches and the poverty of the whole, the virtues and the vices, meet and aſſemble here; and whatever man may know of either, is found here.

" Now, if you want to travel inviſibly through the mazes and intricacies of the place, you ſhall find me a faithful guide; the maſk ſhall be taken off, and characters diſplayed in their true and genuine colours.

" Courage and generoſity ſhould be the characteriſtic of a ſoldier, wiſdom and prudence of a magiſtrate, induſtry

and honeſty of a tradeſman, integrity and ſecreſy of a lawyer, charity and devotion of a divine, ſkill and humanity of a phyſician. Theſe ſhould be their qualifications:—But in our peregrinations through the world we ſhall meet with cowardly ſoldiers, fooliſh magiſtrates, idle and diſhoneſt tradeſmen, lawyers that ought not to be truſted, uncharitable divines, and ignorant phyſicians.

"I will ſhew you characters as they are, and you ſhall from thence judge that mankind are not always what they ſeem."

I thanked the friendly Genius for his offer. Immediately he touched my

my ſhoulder with his hand, and in the inſtant we found ourſelves at the Three Tuns in Stall-ſtreet; where a crowd of people were aſſembled to behold a young man taken out of a chaiſe.

On aſking the occaſion and the meaning of this appearance, the Genius told me that the young man was juſt wounded in a duel fought with a famous gambler, on account of a ſum of money loſt at cards.——The ſtory is this:

"Stoner, for this was the name of the wounded young gentleman, is the ſon of a gentleman farmer in W——e; who, contrary to the expreſs wiſhes of his parents, had a ſtrong propenſity

to the army. His father, in a very indulgent manner, purchaſed him an enſigncy in the —— regiment, which was one of thoſe confined by the convention at Saratoga.

"This circumſtance of not being able to join his regiment, rendered him, who had a great deal of idle time on his hands, liable to be captivated by the follies which under the maſk of pleaſure ſurrounded him: He was ordered on a recruiting ſervice to Bath, where he danced and ſung, drank and played. Being a young fellow of great ſpirits, and in the purſuits of his paſſions, of a happy temper and conſtitution, his company was much ſought after and beloved; being

being alſo liberally ſupplied with money, he was ſoon marked as a proper pigeon for a ſet of ſharpers.

"B—— was at that time in the meridian of his glory; he had realized a fortune, enough to make his appearance in what was called the beſt company, although that company knew him to be a fellow of the moſt infamous character.

"A man of very doubtful character was the friend of B—— often dined at his table, and having been in the army, was intimate with Stoner, whom he introduced to B——, as his friend, or in other words, to be pillaged without mercy."

 "A friend!"

"A friend!" I exclaimed.

"Aye, Sir, nothing is more common than for a gambler to ruin a moſt intimate friend,—nor than for a rake to debauch the wife or daughter of a friend, to whom he has promiſed, and from whom he has received, the greateſt obligation that can be conferred.

"Obſerve that man in red, walking arm in arm with that gentleman in brown; he is daily worſe than planting a dagger into his heart; he is attempting to debauch his wife; and yet he would moſt probably riſque his life with any man who ſhould dare to tell him he was not the real friend of the injured huſband.

"But

" But to proceed.

" B—— gave good dinners; his claret and his burgundy were excellent; half of his guests were in league with himself, and they were treated for providing the prey which they sometimes shared.

" It was not at his own house any play went forwards, but they generally adjourned to a tavern, to pour out fresh libations to Bacchus; and then when the spirits were at the highest pitch of elevation, or the senses lost in intoxication, gaming was proposed.

" In such a scene as this, on a Sunday night was Stoner taken in. The play

play was Lanſquenet. He was too much in liquor to know what he did, and B—— had evidence to prove that all was fair.

"In the morning, ſoberneſs and reflection came on; he had loſt two thouſand pounds, which B—— called on him to pay. Shame prevented his acting as he ought; for if he had had prudence and courage enough to have proſecuted B—— and his companions for a fraud, he would have prevented this miſchief, and have done Bath and the kingdom a ſervice.

"He was unable to pay the money, but he gave his note, on a ſolemn promiſe that it ſhould not be negotiated till the death of his father:—An inſtance

ſtance of weakneſs ſeemingly unaccountable, to depend on the honour of a man whom he ſuppoſed had cheated him, that he would be induced to wait longer for that money than he could conveniently obtain it.

" In a month or two, he wrote to Stoner, that he had left the note at his banker's, and expected it to be duly honoured, as from an ill run at play, he was quite out of caſh.

" He was now obliged to conſult a friend; that friend diſcovered the whole to the father; and legal ſteps were vigorouſly purſued, and (thanks to the protecting laws!) the note was ſurrendered up.

" B——

" B—— met with Stoner ſoon after at Bath, and aſked him if he was not concerned with his father in the proſecution to obtain his note? Stoner told him, that he did intend to have paid him, but when he put it out of his power by urging an immediate payment, which he knew to be impoſſible, he certainly approved of every thing his father had done. Then, ſaid B——, you are a ſcoundrel.——Not ſo great a ſcoundrel as yourſelf.——A blow or two paſſed, but they were then parted.

" Stoner ſent a challenge to B——, which was refuſed; and Stoner caned him in the public rooms at Bath;—

the

the conſequence of which was a duel, and he is now dangerouſly wounded.

" I was very much intereſted in the fate of the young man, and I aſked my guide if he would do well.—He is in good hands, and moſt probably will do well; the ball is lodged near the vertebræ of the loins, and great care muſt be uſed to ſave him.

" It is to be hoped that this affair will teach him prudence. Young men are apt to be too confident in their own ſtrength.

" Stoner was adviſed before to take care of theſe men, but he neglected the advice with contempt, and had very

very nigh fallen a ſacrifice to his preſumption; and made his parents and family miſerable, who deſerved better at his hands.

"B—— is eſcaped, and it is moſt devoutly wiſhed, even by the wretch's family themſelves, that he never will return."

I could not help expreſſing my aſtoniſhment, that a man of B——'s character could poſſibly have any acquaintance among the company of Bath; for I have always heard him ſpoken of with the utmoſt deteſtation; and that even his looks ſeem to declare the villainies of his heart.

"Perhaps

" Perhaps there may be great deal in what you ſay; but the company of Bath are conſtantly in motion. The company of one month are not the company of another; and very unfortunately this man was intimately connected with the M. C. whoſe daughter he had married; he was admitted of courſe into the rooms, and he always played or betted fairly there; —conſequently, although he had been very ſucceſsful, the good-natured world imputed it to fortunate, but fair play. There was no arſenic in his wine; and few were acquainted with the midnight orgies of the tavern, but thoſe who were dupes or parties.

" Genuine

" Genuine courage is not ſhewn by fighting a duel; and the man who thirſts after the blood of his fellow-creature, may more properly be ſet down as a coward than a brave man. B——'s ferocity had gained him the name of the wolf, which he very juſtly deſerved; and by this ferocity he had often frightened dupes into payment: But he was more a bully than a man of courage; and at firſt he would not fight Stoner, whom he knew to be a man of courage; and when he did, it is ſaid, that he made uſe of unfair piſtols, which he for ſome days exerciſed at a target, to aſcertain their force and direction.

" Every

"Every Sunday night a club for the very purpoſes of gaming was held in a private room in this houſe; it will for the preſent be diſcontinued, on account of this duel; but no doubt again eſtabliſhed, and then you ſhall be witneſs of a ſcene that will call forth all your fortitude to be either patient or ſilent.

"There are a ſet of ſharpers under the auſpices of ——, at whoſe houſe they were generally entertained; and they have for ſome years made it a rule to attack every young fellow of fortune, who had more money than prudence, and not reſolution enough to withſtand the allurements that were

thrown in his way. They are compoſed of all claſſes.

"That man in black, who has juſt left Stoner's chamber, was a footman, and yet lives in an eaſy ſtile; he is a ſetter; but to prevent ſuſpicion, generally plays half-crowns with the ladies, and of courſe was occaſionally a proper, becauſe a reputable witneſs, of his friend's honour.

"The notes obtained in payment were for ſeveral years generally negotiated by means of one ——, who lived in the C—h-y—d; as errant a ſwindler as ever knew the Exchange; to his care were committed the notes of theſe unfortunate dupes; and being

ing of a ſly, fawning, ſycophantic diſpoſition, he would tell them an artful tale, that he had given the value for them, which he obtained at the Bank; that the refuſal of payment would be the ruin of himſelf and their honour. This double plea was generally ſucceſsful; and if now and then a note ſlipped through their fingers, it was no loſs to him, and he got a Duke's-place profit for commiſſion.

"A ſtory not very unlike Stoner's happened about three years ago:—A young gentleman of about eighteen was trepanned in the houſe of one S——, where they drank deep, and afterwards adjourning to the tavern, played very high; he was inſenſible

of the buſineſs of the evening, but in the morning he was called on by S—— for a debt of ſix hundred pounds, attended by a friend, who vouched for the honour and fair play of the evening.

"What was to be done? About eighty pounds had been paid the preceding evening; and a young man of eighteen, though the heir of a good eſtate, had no money to call for without expoſing the tranſaction: He gave a bond for the money, to be paid when he came of age.

"The bond was immediately pledged at the Bank, by means of this induſtrious broker, and one or two

two were joint ſecurity for the reſponſibility of a minor, or rather for the indemnification of the Bank, who could have no call on a minor's bond.

"S—— was killed by a fall from his horſe; and when the time of payment expired, the parties who were anſwerable to the Bank called on the young gentleman to diſcharge the bond. The ſtory was related to his father, and threats were made uſe of to compel him, ſuch as duels, aſſaſſinations, &c.

"A gentleman to whom the caſe was ſtated, adviſed him by no means to pay the bond, as being a debt neither of conſcience or honour.—This

advice was followed; and the bond yet remains unpaid."

But pray, said I, was there not some danger of a challenge from the party?

"There certainly was. But in that case his friend advised him not to fight, on this principle:—You refuse, he said, to pay this bond, because it was obtained in an unjust and iniquitous manner; and you esteem the creditor of the bond a cheat; will you then fight with him as a man of honour, whom you refuse to pay as a man of honour? No; if you fight him, you must first pay him. You walk with a cane, and that may prevent you from insults.—The consequence of following

following this advice is, that the young gentleman walks at his eaſe, and, without boaſting of his defiance, bravely ſhews it.

"But come, let us take a view of the Rooms, for though not a ball-night, we ſhall behold ſome characters worth knowing:—That man with the down-caſt look is a notorious gambler; the privy-counſellor and ſworn friend of B——, and often ſhares with him in his plunder. He calls himſelf a gentleman, and, protected by his Majeſty's commiſſion, thinks that will ſcreen him from being called to account, or being ſuſpected for a cheat. You ſee he does not play; he is brooding over the

event of this day's business, and calculating the chances of his own reputation:—He may rest very contented, he has none to lose.

"Observe that man who is offering three to two on the game: He formerly played himself, but has for some years only betted. The occasion was this:—Playing at Piquet with a gentleman in a common room at one of the watering places, near the dining table, he happened to conceal a card under his hand; his antagonist took up a fork, and with the prongs fixed his hand and the card to the table, without any other ceremony or apology than, "Sir, if you "have not got a card under your "hand,

"hand, I aſk your pardon." Perhaps it was a miſtake, for no man bets fairer, nor does he ever propoſe what he will not accept.

"That other man who is ſitting near him was lately taken in for ſix hundred pounds, and obliged to ſell a commiſſion in the army to pay what he was pleaſed to call a debt of honour, at the ſame time neglecting his debts of juſtice; but it is no great difference to him, for he is ſoon like to be as complete a gameſter, and as poor as the beſt of them all, if ſome fooliſh woman does not fall in love with him for the expectation of a title; for ugly as he is, he thinks himſelf handſome, and you may ſee that he

he adds paint to heighten his complexion.

"That nobleman who is so deeply engaged, is possessed of an estate of more than 30,000l. a year; and yet plays at cards merely for the sake of winning.

"A thousand good qualities of the heart are hidden by this accursed vice of gaming. 'Tis not the title of honour, whether hereditary as of nobility, or commissioned as in the army, that will demonstrate or preserve the honour of him that is titled.

"The star without not always shews the star within."

It now began to grow late, and the Genius knowing I wished to be at home,

home, conveyed me in a moment to my parlour, and after offering to accompany me to church on the morrow, he wiſhed me a good night, and left me.

* * * *
* * * *

The CHURCH.

By the time I had made myſelf decent to appear, my friendly guide called on me to take me with him to the Abbey.

"But remember my friend, you go to church for other purpoſes than curioſity; your time will be beſt ſpent there in prayers and devotions: I am bound

bound by duty as well as inclination to aſſiſt in the muſic and ſervice of the day. Yet do not let this diſcompoſe your mind, for at the door we ſhall have time enough to view the characters as they paſs along: Duration and ſpace are nothing to us; and where a ſuperior power does not hinder, we can inform by intuition, although that intuition ſeems to the underſtanding of mortals regular and progreſſive.

"Nothing, my friend, ſhews the folly and depravity of the human heart ſo much as a contempt of religion, which is the bond of union between man and his Creator, and indeed, between man and man.

"It

"It is not the particular ſituation of life that can emancipate any one from thoſe obligations which bind all; nor is there any one of the meaneſt or pooreſt of God's creatures incapable of enjoying thoſe privileges and rewards that were univerſally promiſed to the ſons of men. Therefore if religion be on the one hand an obligation, it ought, on the other, to be eſteemed a favour: And believe me, whatever the world, the laughing world may think, the religion of a ſoldier ought to be as ſincere as the religion of a divine, though perhaps not quite ſo refined.

"Religion, indeed, is often made the ſtalking-horſe for the prey of vice; and

and an infamous heart is frequently diſguiſed under the external appearance of ſanctity; but if we may be allowed to draw our compariſons from the obvious paſſages of life, this no more weighs againſt the reality of its exiſtence, and its purity in the minds of others, than an inſtance wherein a man who with a ſplendid appearance of wealth became ſuddenly a bankrupt, would tend to prove that there was no man rich; or, in fact, that there was no ſuch thing as money in the world; and yet I ſhould not be ſurpriſed to hear this very poſition advanced: Philoſophers, as they call themſelves, often take a great deal of pains to aſſimilate ideas which our underſtandings cannot comprehend,

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and which are advanced less with a view to do good, than with the design to elevate and surprize."

We were now arrived at the Cathedral; the entrance was solemn but not gloomy. The trophies of the mighty King of Terrors impressed my mind with such ideas as had perhaps impressed thousands before me.

The organ was sounding a part of a chorus in Judas Maccabæus; my soul was wrapt in meditation, and I entered my pew with devotion.

The sermon was a good one, delivered with energy and feeling. The preacher told us, that when a man had

had no religion, it was becauſe he would have none. The text was, "The fool hath ſaid in his heart, "there is no God." And our divine plainly proved by argument and ſcripture, that none but a fool could ſay ſo.

The preacher's behaviour made a very conſiderable impreſſion on my mind, and when (the congregation being diſmiſſed) I had joined my friend, I begged him to inform me who he was.

"The gentleman is only an accidental preacher, not a reſident of Bath, but being here with his lady, he has aſſiſted the miniſter of the Abbey this day with a ſermon, which

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is a proof both of his abilities and his ſentiments, for the ſermon was his own, and he was himſelf convinced of the doctrine he advanced.

"His name is Antonius Welldone: and as there is ſomething pleaſing in his ſtory I will relate it.

"Antonius was the ſon of a clergyman in Dorſetſhire; from his infancy he was inſtructed in every ſocial and chriſtian duty, as it was the mutual concern of both his parents to cultivate in his tender mind the love of virtue by frequent advice, which was greatly enforced by the pleaſing manner of it, and their own examples.

"The paſſions thus controuled, the affections thus won, and the inclinations thus engaged, could not fail of producing an agreeable and ſatisfactory return from a ſon eminently dutiful in his conduct and behaviour.

"By the time he had attained his tenth year, Antonius had made a very conſiderable progreſs in Latin and French; his capacity was the admiration of all who knew him; while, at the ſame time, they were equally charmed with his good-nature and amiable generoſity.

"Thus increaſing in goodneſs and learning did he continue under the inſpection of paternal tenderneſs, the

ſole

ſole care of his parents, being the only offspring of their mutual affection, till his country education qualified him for the Univerſity: Accordingly, at the age of ſeventeen, he was entered at —— College, Oxford, from whence his parents formed not inconſiſtent ideas of his future eſtabliſhment and advancement in life, in a ſphere agreeable to his taſte.

At Oxford he was unwittingly introduced by his tutor to the company and acquaintance of ſeveral young gentlemen, whoſe public behaviour was but ill ſuited to their private hours. Antonius ſaw it, but a ſtranger to folly and extravagance, he purſued his ſtudies, and even when he

avoided the ſeduction, he ſeldom gave offence.

"Though this ſituation in life may be accounted agreeable, he was too nice an obſerver of human nature to taſte the fulneſs of ſatisfaction. The degeneracy of his fellow-ſtudents often gave him melancholy reflections. He formed many ſchemes for their inſtruction, and endeavoured to turn their thoughts from vicious to virtuous amuſements, but in vain; and he ſaw with regret that his advice was diſregarded, and all his endeavours to reclaim their perverted principles were ineffectual. The goodneſs of his deſign ſerved only to create in them a ſpirit of emulation for greater

and

and more abandoned excesses of vice and immorality: But while he was meditating on the vices of his companions, he did not fail to avoid them, and chuse a set more conformable in their temper and dispositions to his own.

"During a vacation, he saw the lovely Amelia. She was the daughter of a neighbouring 'Squire. Frequent meetings of young persons of different sexes, in a country village where they have no other equals, can scarce fail to produce a mutual affection, at least so it happened in this instance. Antonius was often at the 'Squire's; and the gentle Amelia, guarded by her innocence, frequently

paid a visit to the mother of Antonius, which fanned the spark of friendship, and made it little less than love.

"Amelia was now about eighteen, and Antonius twenty; Amelia was handsome; joy and gladness sat smiling on her countenance; chearfulness, good-humour, benevolence, and modesty, were displayed through her whole behaviour, and rendered her the object of universal admiration and esteem. Her good sense made her an agreeable companion, and her knowledge of French often was the occasion of little disputations between her and Antonius.

"All

"All theſe accompliſhments fixed him her adorer. For a time he concealed his love, and ſought in ſolitude a relief from his anxiety; but this only ſerved to increaſe it: For however effectual a long abſence may be to wean the affections, the ſeparation of a few days, or perhaps a few hours, will only increaſe the flame, by reflections on the object of the lover's thoughts.

"If our hopes enlarge our happineſs, our fears on the other hand aggravate our calamities, and perhaps our imagination renders the appearance of ills more ſevere than we find them when they attack us. Antonius foreſaw that Mr. Deardſon, the father

of Amelia, would never consent to his marriage with his daughter, and without her he could not be happy; for although the father of Antonius was in good circumstances, he could by no means pretend, in point of fortune, to a match with the daughter of 'Squire Deardson.

"Antonius would have stifled his flame, but it had taken too firm hold, and he must be for ever miserable, or declare his love; and the uncertainty if Amelia would listen to his addresses, contributed to his pain, fearing, lest by a step of this kind, he might forfeit her friendship without obtaining her heart.

"These

"These different conflicts in his mind had an effect upon his health, which was visibly impaired: The gentle Amelia innocently and tenderly enquired into the cause of his disorder.—They were alone, and he gained courage to tell her she was the beloved, the ignorant cause of all.

"She listened with an innocent and delicate surprize that charmed him still more and more. She said she pitied his sufferings; that she was well acquainted with his merit, and knew him to be a man of too much honour to impose on one who was very sincerely his friend.——Friendship in the fair-sex is near allied to love.

"I need

"I need not deſcribe the remainder of the interview; ſuffice it to ſay, that Amelia was not diſpleaſed, and Antonius was happy. The cauſe of his ſickneſs being removed, he ſoon recovered his health of courſe: But while they indulged themſelves in mutual vows of eternal conſtancy, their happineſs was interrupted by the neceſſity Antonius lay under of returning to Oxford. They promiſed to correſpond by letter; and his mother being made acquainted with their love, conſented to receive Amelia's letters in a cover directed to herſelf: This, and a mutual confidence of reciprocal affection, calmed their grief, and after a tender farewell, they parted.

"Antonius,

Antonius, on account of the diſtance of his father's houſe from Oxford, was obliged to make two days journey, and even to ride early and late to compaſs it in that time. The ſecond day he found himſelf, as the evening began to advance, at ſome diſtance from Oxford, when he was alarmed with a confuſed noiſe of oaths, threats, and groans: Rouſed at once from his reflections, which the fineneſs of the night and his Amelia had introduced to his mind, he rode up to the place, where he ſaw two footpads ſtripping a gentleman who ſeemed almoſt expiring on the ground. Immediately he drew forth a piſtol, and without remonſtrance fired with ſuc-

ceſs;

ceſs; one of the villains fell; the other ran off into an adjoining wood.

"Antonius now got off, and after binding the robber, who was only ſlightly wounded, he went to ſuccour the wounded gentleman, whom he found to his great ſurprize to be the brother of Amelia. This young gentleman was of Oxford alſo, but had been now to pay a viſit to an uncle in Yorkſhire, and taking a little circuit to call on a friend, was now returning to Oxford for the term. He had been attacked by one of thoſe fellows while he was giving the other alms as a caſt-away mariner. The footpad was ſecured, and at the next aſſizes was capitally convicted, but

by

by the interpoſition of Antonius and his friend, he was reprieved for tranſportation.

" Mr. Deardſon wrote to his father and his ſiſter the obligations he lay under to Antonius; and the ſame poſt carried one from Antonius to his Amelia, in which nothing was mentioned but what concerned themſelves. If any thing could have added to her affection, this action muſt have increaſed it, as ſhe affectionately loved her brother, who was a young gentleman endued with every good quality the human heart almoſt is capable of receiving.

" Amelia,

"Amelia, in a letter to Antonius, delicately expreſſed the ſentiments of her ſoul on the occaſion:—She ſaid,

"—From my brother I received "the account of the great obliga- "tions we lie under to your courage "and generoſity, which laſt I will "not wound by dwelling on a cir- "cumſtance, to me the moſt precious "of my life, but which you ſeem to "avoid the mention of. I entertain "great hopes that it may turn to our "mutual advantage; therefore culti- "vate the friendſhip of my brother; "he is a good young man, and from "his infancy has been generous and "affectionate. My father takes a "pleaſure in ſpeaking of you, but I

"am

" am fearful of diſcovering the ſen-
" timents of my mind, therefore am
" ſparing in my commendations be-
" fore him; but when I am with your
" —I had almoſt ſaid my—excellent
" mother, I then indulge myſelf freely
" in diſcourſing of my brother's dan-
" ger and your courage. Oh Anto-
" nius, tears always flow, but they
" are tears of love, of joy, of ſatis-
" faction. I need not ſay how much
" we both want to ſee you, for if I
" could ſay how much, our affection
" would be confined to narrow limits,
" ſuch as ill ſuit the honour of Anto-
" nius, or the ſoul of his affectionate,

A. D."

" At

" At the next vacation, the friends came home together. Antonius was received by the 'Squire with great cordiality; but his meeting with Amelia is better imagined than deſcribed.

" Hitherto every thing ſeemed to conſpire with their wiſhes; but now their joys were ſuddenly overcaſt by a propoſal of marriage from a neighbouring baronet, old enough to have been her father; but as he was immenſely rich, 'Squire Deardſon urged the match with arguments and threats.

" Amelia implored the aſſiſtance of her brother, and confeſſed her regard for Antonius. 'Siſter,' he ſaid, 'my

'friend

'friend is worthy of your love, nor 'ſhall my endeavours be wanting to 'make you compleatly happy.'

"But no intreaties, no remonſtrances, could make the father recede from his purpoſe; and finding Antonius the hindrance, he forbad him his houſe. Amelia ſtill continuing inflexible in her reſolution, he altered his will, and left her a ſhilling: However, at the intreaties of his ſon, he deſired the Baronet would diſcontinue his viſits, as his daughter did not approve of his addreſſes.

"Scarce a month elapſed after this, when the 'Squire died, and left his ſon in the poſſeſſion of full three

thouſand pounds a year, and thirty thouſand pounds in caſh: With ſome concern the ſon beheld the injuſtice of his father's will; but after the funeral, he ſent for Antonius, and taking his hand, he joined it to his ſiſter's. I am very happy that I have it in my power to recommend ſo worthy a man to be the huſband of my ſiſter, whom I tenderly love; nor do I think you, Antonius, will ever have occaſion to repent your choice. The Living which my father deſigned for me is now vacant, and I will preſent you to it. My ſiſter's fortune is twelve thouſand pounds, and it ſhall be punctually paid you on the day of marriage.—

Nay,

Nay, no thanks,—no apologies,—I will hear none,—I will admit of none.

"He went out. It is difficult to ſay whoſe ſatisfaction was the greateſt, Antonius's in receiving, or Mr. Deardſon's in beſtowing.——He exclaimed only when he came back,—Pray do not make me unhappy by apologies and thanks of no conſequence.

"Antonius ſoon after entered into holy orders; and was made happy with his Amelia. He now lives a life of true hoſpitality, beloved by all around him: His charity as a divine influences the reſt of the wealthy inhabitants; and the poor-rates are a trifle, if ever they are gathered.

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* * *

" Yonder is the B—— of ——. Sancho Pança ſays, the cowl does not make the monk,—lawn-ſleeves do not make the B——, or if they do, it is in name only; and though the Conge d'Elire of a King may inveſt a man with the revenues of a principality, it cannot inſpire thoſe qualifications which St. Paul has affixed to the office of Epiſcopacy.

" That man was the humble attendant on the B—— of ——'s Lady, nominally indeed chaplain to his L——p, but as his intention was preferment, and the grey mare was in the

the vulgar phraſe the better horſe, he knew well how to play his game: He paid more attention to the etiquette of her tea-table and card-parties, than to the office of his miniſtry: Had he attended the B—— only, he would have obtained nothing; but he found preferment in the favours of the Lady, for he roſe rapidly enough; and now looks forward to the See of ——.

"That ſubmiſſively mean complaiſance which he was obliged to uſe ſo many years, that he might ingratiate himſelf into the favour of an haughty dame, was not the genuine temper of his ſoul. He was proud, inſolent, and litigious; and ſince his advance-

ment, has never ceaſed to diſturb the harmony of that church of which he is the head;—plainly proving, that the man who will be mean through intereſt, will be a tyrant when he dare.

"Thoſe ladies in the brown riding-habits, are the Counteſs —— and her daughter Lady H—— ſiſter to the D—— of ——. The Counteſs was daughter of Mr. P——, preceptor to the D— of ——, a moſt learned and moſt worthy man. Her Ladyſhip poſſeſſes every domeſtic virtue neceſſary to form the mind; charitable, and unaffectedly devout; my own oraiſons have been heightened by the emanations of her ſoul, which I have often been witneſs to, have often felt:

She

She is gentle without folly, humble without meanneſs, and ſtately without pride;—no one ſpeaks or thinks leſs of the dignity of her ſtation, yet no one really preſerves it more; if ſhe is in the nurſery inſtructing her children, in the cottage attending the poor, in an aſſembly adorning the circle, ſhe is ſtill the ſame good, amiable, and admired Counteſs ——; and the prevalence of faſhion has never been able to debauch her underſtanding, or once to draw her off from an immediate care and attention to her children, which may be accounted by the world, as well as by herſelf, 'jewels of great price.'

" And to conſummate all,
" Greatneſs of mind, and nobleneſs their ſeat,
" Build in her loveliеſt, and create an awe
" About her, as a guard angelic plac'd."

" My power only extends to the environs of B——, conſequently as the other children are abſent, I can only ſpeak of Lady H——. She is, as you ſee her, handſome without being ſenſible of it,—

" Unconſcious as the mountain of its ore,
" Or rock of its ineſtimable gem;—

" And in her behaviour pleaſes without ſeeming to intend it. Like her mother, her dignity is without affectation, and without pride.

" The

" The future events of her life are hidden from my knowledge; but if ſweetneſs of diſpoſition, innocence, ſenſe, and ſenſibility, can make the ſtate of marriage happy, her huſband can ſcarcely fail of enjoying it.

" That man who is near-ſighted, and of a melancholy look, is a ſad and deplorable inſtance to what lengths the envious man will go: This man was a citizen of London, and ſome years ago bought a piece of ground which he let out on a building leaſe to ſome capital tradeſmen who were his neighbours and his friends; but one or two of theſe men jealous of his good fortune, and envious againſt the man, entered into a combination

bination to diſpute his title; and ſetting up a fictitious claimant, by a variety of falſe pretences carried on ſuits as long as the courts of Juſtice would ſuffer them to appear.

"He gained his cauſe; but his lawyer let him into a ſecret, that he would have been money in pocket if an earthquake had ſwallowed up the whole eſtate the day after he had paid for it, for theſe fellows ſued for a pauper, and they had nothing to plead in excuſe for their proceedings: A fair and very valuable conſideration had been paid for the premiſes; yet ſuch was the depravity of the human heart that could induce theſe men to perſecute an honeſt man with a falſe pretended claim

claim without foundation, and which they knew in their own conſciences to be unjuſt.—Was it for the ſake of juſtice? Not one of them makes a pretence of being honeſt further than the law compels,—that governs them, and I hope it will at length with a halter at the gallows.

"One of them pretends to be a religious man, and conſtantly attends his church, and after the tenth commandment impiouſly dares to petition heaven without acknowledging his guilt.

"Another of them is more bold and daring; and as he has no religion, he profeſſes none, ſcorning to pray

pray to, or to pay obedience to, the commands of a God who is out of his ſight, though he knows him to be inviſible. He is a ſhip-builder by trade, and in his ſituation of life he may be ſaid to be in affluence: Mammon is his God, but it ſits not eaſy on him; envy rankles in his heart, and his want of charity has ſuffered his neareſt relations to pine for the neceſſaries of life, and petition him in vain."

The Genius would have proceeded, but my mind was agonized by the deſcription, and I could not help exclaiming,

"My ſoul turn from them."

The

The next figure which ſtruck my eyes was ſuch a compoſition of pride and inſolence as I think I ſcarce ever before behold; and I ſaid to the Genius, if that is not a proud man there is no truſt to the evidence of external appearances.

"You are right. He is a ſurgeon; and what is rather extraordinary, has a good deal of practice. He lives not a hundred miles from Bath.

"In the younger part of his life by the intereſt of ſome friends he was recommended from the counter of an apothecary to ſuperintend a plantation of negroes in the iſland of Jamaica, where he learned to be tyrannical and proud;

proud: Strongly prepoſſeſſed that the poor negroes were not his fellow-creatures, he has not forgot his inſolence in Europe.

"However, he got ſome money there, and he has for ſome years experienced the truth of this obſervation,—that few people enquire into or regard the merits of the perſon whom they employ, even when they entruſt their lives in their hands. If humanity and profeſſional knowledge be the requiſites neceſſary, he has as little claim as any man alive; but if pride, pomp, and parade, be proofs of abilities, he may certainly lay claim to a large ſhare of practice.

"His

"His feats of ignorance are numerous:——The following inſtance either of his ignorance, of his barbarity, or of both, deſerves to be recorded:—

"The wife of a poor man in labour deſired him to attend her; he obeyed her ſummons, but came away immediately, declaring, that ſhe would not be brought to bed for ſeveral days. In about three hours he was again ſent for, but it being in the night he would not get up. In two hours more he was again called by the huſband: On providing a chair, and depoſiting the ſum of three guineas, he did vouchſafe to go; but he had ſcarce proceeded a hundred yards, before

before he was met by a meſſenger, who told them the woman was dead."

My blood ran cold with horror: And will ſuch a wretch as that, I ſaid, get buſineſs?

"O yes, replied the Genius; for what does the death of a poor woman or two ſignify? She would not have been loſt for want of help if ſhe had been the wife of a rich man; and the rich, believe me, have ſomething elſe to do than to enquire into, or trouble themſelves with theſe infringements on humanity. Beſides, all the kingdom are agreed in this as a general grievance and complaint, that they are too much burthened with

with poor; and ſo this man, by leſſening their number, may plead that he is a good member of ſociety.

This character brought to my recollection a ſtory of fact:——

A gentleman who has now declined practice ſomewhat leſs than twenty years ago, was called in to a terrible accident of a fractured ſkull: He gave the patient as much attendance as if he had been a prince, and by his ſkill ſaved the man's life, who was a pauper and ſupported at the pariſh expence. Unfortunately the poor man married his nurſe, out of gratitude for her care and attention, as ſoon as he got well. At Eaſter, when

the ſurgeon applied for the payment of his bill, it was objected to; and the 'Squire of the pariſh, with leſs humanity than his hound Sweet-lips, ſaid, "No: If Mr. What-d'ye-call-'um "had let the man a' died, he wou'd'nt "a' car'd if the bill had been paid, "but now he was got well, and mar-"ried, he'd get a parcel of brats to "become burthenſome to the pariſh, "and ſo, d'ye ſee, he would not agree "to pay a groat."

The natural eaſineſs of this gentleman's temper often ſubjected him to ſuch impoſitions as theſe, but it ſeldom gave him any laſting grief; and when he uſed to tell the ſtory, the greateſt ſatisfaction ſeemed to be

ſummed

ſummed up in his having done his duty.

"Why," ſays the Genius, "there is ſome little difference between your hero and mine; but I have no occaſion to ſay which is the better man, or which will be the richer in the end. But pray obſerve that ſimple pert-looking fellow, he too is in the phyſical line, and is now deſcanting very elaborately and learnedly to an old woman, who, without underſtanding a word that he ſays, is bleſſing her ſtars that there is ſuch a prodigy exiſting, who makes diſeaſes fly before him like the balls of a conjurer with a "hey, preſto, be gone."

"He was originally a ſervant to an Iriſh apothecary, and from cleaning ſhoes was taken into the ſhop to ſerve pennyworths of liquorice, and compound preſcriptions which he could not read.

"Much about the time he had been in this ſituation four years, the famous Sutton had inſpired the three kingdoms with the rage of inoculation. Mr. —— obtained the very honourable title of Suttonian aſſiſtant, and like many others as ignorant as himſelf, ſported pretty freely with the lives of his patients, figuring away while the madneſs laſted in a ſtile as grand as the beſt. He got ſome money, and with a ſuit or two of cloaths,

cloaths, fixed himſelf at St. ——, in S——, as M. D. with a Salamanca diploma; and having a pretty large ſhare of modeſt aſſurance, which ſome people rudely call conſummate impudence, he married the R——'s daughter with a fortune during her life of ſix thouſand pounds.

"A few years ago he came to Bath, meaning, as he ſaid, to ſucceed to the practice of Moyſey and Delacour, the latter of whom he has more than once aſſerted intended to decline in his favour; but believe me, he gets more affronts than fees: Indeed, he never preſcribes at all, except to the very loweſt of his countrymen, where he will never fail to get ſomething for

his preſcriptions if he can. He was ſo mean as to ſtop fifteen ſhillings of his hair-dreſſer, who was dying of a conſumption, as a balance for his preſcription, which he begged in *forma pauperis*.

"The following ſtory is ridiculous but fact:—He ſometime ago employed the apprentice of a muſician to tune his harpſichord ſeveral times; the boy not being well, this ſon of Galen wrote a preſcription, for which the boy neither intended to give him money or thanks; in fact, the boy made no uſe of his preſcription.—When the bill for tuning the inſtrument was delivered, the Doctor wanted to ſet off the preſcription; but the maſter

maſter, not ſatisfied with ſuch unſubſtantial payment, ſummoned the poor Doctor before the Court of Conſcience. —Each ſtory was told; and the Judge of the Court with the uprightneſs of a Sancha Pança himſelf, finding the boy had made no uſe of the preſcription, ordered him to return it to the Doctor, and the Doctor to pay the maſter for what he had done."

"Obſerve that beautiful woman in blue ſattin, ſhe is the wife of a M——ſhire gentleman of conſiderable fortune, who has lately brought her to Bath to ſpend the ſeaſon for her amuſement. Virtue never poſſeſſed a fairer form, nor was beauty ever more pure than hers; mutually

loving and beloved, this unſuſpecting pair have left their ſeat of rural happineſs to tread the paths of danger.

"A ſwarm of gallants are conſtantly encircling her, attempting to debauch her underſtanding, and poiſon her mind with flattery. Not knowing the iniquity of the polite world, there is, my friend, a poſſibility ſhe may fall. A dangerous deſign is planned to enſnare her; and yon titled miſcreant with his emiſſaries, are already glorying in the daggers the huſband's heart muſt receive by a violation which nothing but ſeduction—nay, nothing but a rape—can poſſibly produce."

And

And pray, I ſaid, is the huſband eaſy all this while?

"Certainly. Why ſhould he be otherwiſe? Angels are not more pure than this lady; and if he loves her, ſhe is no leſs fond of him; nor can he be acquainted with the diſguiſed villainy of thoſe men who call themſelves his friends. He cannot be jealous, becauſe no part of her conduct has at any time given the ſmalleſt room for ſuſpicion.

"Neither her outſide form ſo fair, nor ought
"So much delights him, as thoſe graceful acts,
"Thoſe thouſand decencies that daily flow
"From all her words and actions, mixed with love
"And ſweet compliance, which declare unfeign'd
"Union of mind, or in them both one ſoul.

Might

Might I, I ſaid, write an anonymous letter to adviſe him of his danger?

"You may," ſaid the Genius, but remember when you do, that his lady is as pure as ſnow,

"Chaſte as the Icicle
"That hangs from Dian's temple."

Many other characters were deſcribed by my faithful guide, but I was ſo much intereſted in the fate of this wedded pair, that I could not minute them down before I ſent the following note:—

"SIR,

"If you wiſh to preſerve the happineſs of yourſelf and your lady,

"depart

"depart immediately from Bath. I "knew, and I warn you, that there "is a diabolical plan laid to deſtroy "your peace for ever. Adieu.

"A REAL FRIEND."

* * * *
* * *

UPPER ROOMS.

In the evening we went to the Dreſs'd Ball at the Upper Rooms. I was inviſible by the aſſiſtance of my friend, and he immediately brought me near to the perſon whom he had pointed out as the "titled miſcreant" the day before, him who had laid the plan of ſeduction: He was telling his party with a melancholy face, that

Mr.

Mr. and Mrs. —— were both gone that morning from B——, and deploring the ill ſucceſs of his plot.

My blood roſe, and had I been viſible, I ſhould certainly have called him a villain, and challenged him on the ſpot.

The Genius ſaw the perturbation of my ſoul, and he thus addreſſed me:

"Your temper is too warm and too ſenſible ever to be a man of the world; you ſhould learn to look with indifference,

"With the calm eye of mild philoſophy,"

on thoſe villains who are out of your reach,

reach, and thoſe crimes which affect not you. It is a maxim of prudence, and worth your care.

We moved to the great Room. "The Balls are, ſaid the Genius, and indeed, the other amuſements ſhould be, governed by a Maſter of the Ceremonies, one at each Rooms; and they are each very largely rewarded for the trouble they are at, by a ball in each ſeaſon. The buſineſs of a Maſter of the Ceremonies is to regulate the company when they aſſemble together, to viſit them at their houſes and lodgings, and, as ARBITER ELEGANTIARUM, ſee that the ladies who dance minuets do not preſume to ſtand up without long lappets; that commoners

ers do not dare to sit with peeresses; and when the clock strikes eleven, with the sight of his watch to bid the music cease, and the dance be done.

"Although these attentions may in themselves be necessary, yet, if a Master of the Ceremonies would dare avow himself a man of honour, or of virtue; if he would point out to the company the notorious gamester, or the suspected fortune-hunter; if he would be the protector of simplicity, and the guardian of innocence, he might then not only be called ARBITER ELEGANTIARUM, but he would deservedly be esteemed PUBLICÆ VIRTUTIS CONSERVATOR. He would then be an important member of so-

ciety,

ciety, and of more real conſequence to the community, than merely to hand a lady out to a minuet, or regulate the etiquette of precedence.

"I was once preſent at the Rooms when a young gentleman offered to make a party at Whiſt with ſome adepts to whom he was an utter ſtranger. Naſh was by, who then regulated the pleaſures of the place. —He took the gentleman aſide and ſaid to him, "You are wrong; theſe "men are above your match: I do "not mind your playing in the rooms "for guineas; but they are dange-"rous acquaintance, and if you once "meet them at a tavern you are ſure "to be undone."

"But

* * * * * * *

" But come, let us take a view of the company.

" That gentleman in blue this moment come in, is a deſcendant of the famous —— ——. He poſſeſſes a very large eſtate in ——, and I mention him more on the account of his eſtate than on his own, though he is a very amiable, generous, hoſpitable, and humane man. The eſtate of which he is now in poſſeſſion, in the ſixteenth century belonged to the ——, the laſt of which family, from a rent-roll of near twenty thouſand pounds a year, was reduced to indigence, and outlawed for a debt, of

of leſs than forty pounds. It paſſed not through three generations of thoſe who ſucceeded, the laſt ſurvivor of which had not credit enough to get a leg of mutton of a butcher with whom he had laid out hundreds. This gentleman is poſſeſſed of virtue, prudence, and the ſtricteſt integrity; and yet for want of male heirs, the eſtate muſt go to another family before it reaches the fourth deſcent."

And pray, I ſaid, what can be the meaning of this?

"The ſuperſtitious," replied the Genius, "ſay it was an eſtate ſeized from the church. It is out of my province, my friend: But remember,

that what is unjuſtly obtained, can never be long in poſſeſſion; and children, however prudent in themſelves, will, at one time or other, feel the evil conſequences of paternal rapacity."

"That gentleman now ſpeaking to the Maſter of the Ceremonies, is the E— of ——; you muſt have heard of the Fete Champetre, and the continual round of diſſipation and amuſements he ran into on account of his marriage: A little reflection and conſideration might have ſhewn him the great impropriety of a conduct like this. The continual adulations that were offered to the bride intoxicated her brain, and vitiated her underſtanding:

derſtanding: her virtue was ſtaggered, and ſhe fell: He loved her, and now flies to the gaming-table and the tavern, to drown reflection, and diſſipate the uneaſy remembrance of the happy ſcenes which he had foretold to himſelf in a life of conjugal felicity."

"Obſerve that lady in a lilac gown; ſhe is fallen in love with a fidler, and, loſt to all ſenſe of ſhame, this morning wrote to him a tender billet doux, which fell into the hands of her huſband: This accident, which happened not more than four hours ago, cauſed a quarrel between them; but it did not prevent her from coming to the Ball; and ſhe ſeems as free, eaſy, and un-

concerned, as if innocence and virtue alone poſſeſſed her thoughts."

And is ſhe really ſo?

"No."

"The worm call'd Conſcience gnaws within her breaſt,
"And tells her ſh'as done wrong."

"That fierce-looking man is called, among thoſe who know him, Don Choleric; and he well deſerves that name. He is a ſoldier by profeſſion, and

"Jealous of honour, ſudden and quick in quarrel."

"But

"But I believe, he has too much prudence

——"to ſeek the bubble Reputation
"In the cannon's mouth."

"He never formed an acquaintance with whom he did not endeavour to get intimate; and he never formed a friendſhip for a man with whom he did not quarrel. He is an entertaining companion, and tells a ſtory well. You ſee he has juſt left the company in a roar at his pleaſantry; but his wit is of the peſtilent kind, and carries infection with it. Scarce a week has paſſed for theſe twenty years in which Don Choleric has not figuerd away in ſome newſpa-

per or other; like the ſons of Iſhmael, his hand is againſt every man, and perhaps often for no greater offence than wearing a hat too broad for a quaker, or too narrow for a beau.

"People are in general afraid of him; as when he is uppermoſt he writes with ſome degree of ſpirit; but now and then he meets with his match, and not unfrequently "breaks "his ſhins againſt his own wit." When his adverſary proves too hard for him, he ſits down as quiet as a lamb, without telling who hurt him: Something of this kind happened a few months ago, but the ſtory is too long for the ball-room."

"That

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* * *

"That ſhort gentleman is a Captain in the —— regiment of foot; the major of the regiment died about a twelvemonth ago; he being ſenior captain, and long in the ſervice, expected to have ſucceeded; but the colonel recommended a junior friend of his own; and Captain —— is now come to Bath for a bilious complaint which vexation brought on."

But pray, I ſaid, who is that beautiful creature now going to dance a minuet? She ſeems

"More than painting can expreſs,
"Or youthful poets fancy when they love."

The Genius told me ſhe was the daughter of a Colonel Swallow, a gentleman of ſome fortune, but who is ſo very ſtrict over his daughter, that while he is preventing and forbidding the honourable addreſſes of men of character, ſhe will be induced to elope, perhaps, with ſome fortune-hunter not worth a groat.

"That young lady in pink-coloured ſattin is the daughter of a country clergyman, who is lately in a very unexpected manner become poſſeſſed of a large fortune. The ſtory is this:

"This clergyman was no otherwiſe provided for than by two curacies

cies three miles a-part, of about twenty-five pounds a year each; but living in a cheap county, he made a ſhift to provide decently for a wife and three children, this young lady, and two ſons now at Eton.

"One day a poor man called at his door to aſk his charity: Seeing ſomething agreeable and above the vulgar in his countenance, he entertained him hoſpitably, and divided all the riches he had left in the world, till a few days brought his next quarter's ſalary due. In farther converſation he aſked him the ſtory of his life: The ſtranger told him that his name was Edwards, that he had been many years a ſea-faring man and a trader in the

the Indies, in which the misfortunes he had met with had happened to many before.

"Pray, said the curate, whose name was Jephson, are you any ways related to the Edwards's of ——?" 'I am, he said. I was the son of John Edwards, the 'Squire of the parish; but my elder brother running away with all the estate when my father died, I embarked with five hundred pounds, the whole of my fortune, in a voyage to Bengal. On my return to England, I waited on my brother, who is still alive, but not seeing me loaded with the riches of the East, he would not receive me, and

and ordered his doors to be ſhut againſt me.'

"I am very ſorry for that, ſaid the curate; he has not uſed me very well, and I have found it very difficult to obtain, at different times, the ſmall pittance of the fortune which my mother ſhould have had, for I am the ſon of his ſiſter and of yours.

"Altho' my income be not large, yet it ſhall be chearfully devoted to your eaſe and comfort; and if we cannot obtain the luxuries, he that feeds the ravens will never ſuffer us to want the neceſſaries of life; and God's bleſſing will always make the brown loaf grateful.

"He

"He called his amiable wife to pay her reſpects to her uncle, which ſhe did with unaffected grace and affection. The old gentleman turned aſide;—the tears ran down his cheeks;—you oppreſs me—you overwhelm me with your goodneſs; but God will reward you. The children were introduced, and hung about his knees. In the mean while dinner was provided; when, juſt as they were ſitting down to their homely fare, an elegant coach drove up to the door. They all ſtarted up in ſurpriſe. Pray, ſays the ſtranger, whoſe coach is that? Is it your's, my couſin? Oh, no, Sir! replies the niece. Why then, it ſhall be; it is mine; and that and all that I have is your's, my child, my children.

dren. I am not poor; God has bleſſed me with abundance. You divided your all with me when you thought me in diſtreſs; you relieved me when you thought me poor; when I was hungry you fed me; and you were bountiful to me when I was in want: And now, my children, all the wealth that I have got ſhall be beſtowed on you. Do not be afraid to receive it; it will wear well; it is induſtriouſly, it is honeſtly obtained, and not a ſingle guinea is ſtained with blood or rapine."

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"Yonder

" Yonder is a lady making a ſubſcription for a family in diſtreſs. In all probability too late for the wants of him for whom it is principally intended.

A Tale of Woe.

" A young gentleman, a lieutenant in a marching regiment quartered in a town in the north of England, at an aſſembly danced with the daughter of an attorney in the place; An acquaintance commenced, and from this ſprung up an intimacy, friendſhip, and at laſt love.

" The friends on each ſide were conſulted, and they agreed to the match; but from motives of prudence

dence insisted that our lieutenant should first obtain a company, or else some place out of the army, which would provide a comfortable maintenance for his wife and family that might be.

"This to be sure was a very natural and judicious precaution; but, alas! neither of their parents would advance the sum necessary for either one or the other purpose, although the father of the lady was to pay down, on the day of marriage, three thousand pounds as his daughter's portion; and a settlement of proportionable value was to be made by the father of the lieutenant.

"Love

"Love ill brooks delays; and the young couple ſoon after made an elopement to Scotland. On their return, the lady's father, glad of an excuſe to ſave his money, pretended to be very angry that they had deſpiſed his prudent advice, and abſolutely refuſed to give his daughter a ſhilling. Becauſe he refuſed, the other parent was equally obſtinate, and the lieutenant was turned looſe to the world to fight his way with his ſword;—without money,—without friends, except a wife whom he loved, and ſhe was all the world to him.

"His regiment was ordered to Minorca, and after ſtaying there three years, they came back to England, in

in a ſituation of diſtreſs. Their expences had exceeded their income, though managed with the greateſt care and frugality; and his agent refuſed to advance more money. Their parents were deaf to all their petitions, and their letters were at laſt returned unopened. So cruelly did theſe ignorant barbarians treat one act of precipitancy in love;—but they ſeemed to vie with each other in their reſentments.

"The wife went to her father with three children, and was rudely and inhumanly forbid the houſe. On her return ſhe fell ſick; a phyſician of the place adviſed her to come to Bath. He ſold his commiſſion to de-

ſray the expences of the journey. Not much remained, after paying his agent; but all would be well expended to ſave his Louiſa. They came. Alas! it was not a caſe within healing powers of Bath. Her heart was broke;—and a few days ago, ſhe breathed her laſt in the arms of her beloved.

" Words cannot deſcribe the ſituation of the huſband; his ſorrow is beyond compare. " Let me not," he ſaid, " curſe the author of my being; " —let me not curſe the father of my " Louiſa. If they knew the ſtory of " our woes!—Alas, well, too well " they knew it.——Oh, my heart! " break, break!—Let me follow my " Louiſa.

"Louiſa.—And yet to leave my "pretty little ones a prey to want and "miſery,—to beggary,—perhaps to "proſtitution;—Oh, it is too much, "too much!—Save them,—Oh ſave "them!—Father of all mercies, look "down upon them,—bleſs them."—

"He could utter no more. Attending and watching his Louiſa, abſtinence from neceſſary food, and grief accumulated, were too much for his conſtitution to ſupport. He fainted; and falling on the floor, brought the neighbours to his apartment. The eldeſt little girl, about four years old, was weeping over her father as he lay, unconſcious of her mother's death.

"His diſtreſſes were now made known, and the Maſter of the Lower Rooms, with a generoſity that does him great honour, began himſelf, and promoted a ſubſcription for their relief.

[A handſome ſubſcription was raiſed, and would have been applied to have re-purchaſed his commiſſion—but it was too late. The poor lieutenant never held up his head again. The children were taken care of; but his mind was too much attached to his Louiſa; and the ſympathetic thread which united both their ſouls, was too ſtrong for the allurements of the world.—

Almoſt

Almoſt without a ſtruggle his heart broke too.]

The ATHEIST.

"That four-looking man is an atheiſt; he has an eſtate of ſome conſideration in ——; and his houſe being near the church, he conſtantly, during ſervice, invited all the moſt profligate people in the neighbourhood to acts of revelry and the looſeſt riot.

"In vain the rector repreſented the indecency of his behaviour. He told him, "Voltaire had enlightened his "underſtanding, and taught him to "deſpiſe all religion as the invention "of prieſtcraft and deſigning men,

" to keep the world in awe, that they " might pillage them without mercy."

" The rector found it in vain to diſpute or hold conference with ſuch a wretch; and being a timid man, and fond of peace, he agreed with a curate to perform duty in his room.

" Our hero triumphed at his victory. He ſaid, he had ſilenced the rector, and he'd warrant he'd ſilence his curate; but he was miſtaken; the curate was a man of abilities, and a man of courage. After putting up with the inſult two or three Sundays, he called on him to reaſon with him on the impropriety of his behaviour. He laughed at him, and aſked him, if he thought

thought when the maſter was refuſed, that the man could prevail?

"Look y', Sir," ſaid the curate, "your inſolence to me I deſpiſe: I "have performed my duty as to ex- "hortation; there only now remain "diſcipline and excommunication.— "I will not contend with you in a "ſuit which my circumſtances in life "cannot well afford; but, Sir, you "may take my word for it, if you "dare to diſturb my congregation "again, the firſt time I meet with "you, I will take the diſcipline of "the church into my own hands, and "horſe-whip you into good beha- "viour."

"The next day the gentleman ſet off for London, and has never been at his country-houſe on a Sunday ſince.

"This is not the only proof of his cowardice, for after he had been boaſting of his infidelity, and wiſhing if there were a devil that he had the honour of his acquaintance, before a large company at the houſe of a friend where he was viſiting, a trick was played which ſufficiently expoſed the pale heart of this modern dare-devil.

"Going to bed, when the ſervant had left the room, he obſerved the candles to burn blue, and a ſtench of

ſulphur

ſulphur pervade the room, and offend his olfactory nerves. This heroic diſciple of Voltaire, remembering his wiſh, began to have ſome doubts in his head, but it was only as terror operated: He called reaſon to his aſſiſtance, and laughed, or rather would have laughed if he had dared.

"As ſoon as he was got into bed, the ſervant took away his wax-candles, and left a ruſh-light burning in a gloomy chamber lantern, that inſpired ſomething in his imagination like Milton's

"Darkneſs viſible."

"He

"He was ſcarce laid down when a melancholy groaning ſound was heard, and the curtains of his bed began to ſhake and tremble;—preſently all was ſtill;—again the ſound and tremulous motion of the curtains were repeated;—a ſudden gleam of light, as ſuddenly removed;—a ſtream of ſulphureous exhalation;—preſently a ſight dreadful and tremendous; the devil in his proper form appears, whoſe acquaintance he had wiſhed for, and with whoſe friendſhip he deſired to be honoured.

"But theſe were the falſehoods of a braggadoſio.—A being that he pretended to diſbelieve, or, believing, not

not to fear, made him already anticipate half the terrors of damnation.

"Don't be afraid," ſaid the ſpectre, "I came to give you thanks; "you are my friend, my favourite "ſervant, and take pains to oblige "me. Go on, perſevere, and you "ſhall always find me at your elbow "to aid and aſſiſt you. Abuſe reli- "gion,—laugh at piety,—ridicule "virtue,—and deſpiſe every thing "that is juſt and holy, your reward "ſhall be great; and remember, that "it is

"Better to reign in hell than ſerve in heaven."

"Theſe

"Theſe encouraging words of his good friend had little effect on the perſon to whom they were addreſſed; for after perfuming the bed with incenſe that vied with the ſulphur itſelf, he had abſolutely fainted with the fright.

"The houſe now began to be alarmed, and the contrivers of the jeſt were apprehenſive they had carried the joke too far; and when at laſt he came to himſelf, a dead weight hung on his ſpirits; his coward heart trembled; and he abſolutely attended church with an appearance of devotion.

"It would have been a happy circumſtance

cumſtance if he had been left ignorant of the ſcheme; but the contrivers of the trick betrayed it; and our hero, to make up to his ſatanic majeſty for loſt time, has ſince that been more wicked than ever at all places except his own houſe; and there the fear of the curate's manual chaſtiſement actually to this day keeps him in awe."

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Some other characters paſſed in review before us, but it growing late we left the room to attend the Corporation at the Guildhall on the morrow.

GUILDHALL.

GUILDHALL.

O thou moſt magnificent palace! thou ſeat of juſtice!* thou habitation of the wiſe! thou harbour of the wretched! thou protector of the injured! and thou terror of evil doers! —open thy auſpicious doors, that we may behold and reverence!†

* This is certainly a miſtake of the Author or of the Genius; for Juſtice ſtands without-ſide; conſequently it cannot properly be called the Seat of Juſtice.

Printer's Devil.

† This addreſs, like Oſſian's to the ſun, I mean the moon, is very beautiful, particularly the harmony between *doers* and *doers*, and is ſuperior to the clinquant of Taſſo himſelf.

Anon.

The

The CORPORATION.

"It is ill meddling with edge-tools."

"Corporations, my friend, are tools to a proverb, although the ſharp edge may not always appear.

"Some people think, that in ſuch ſmall places as Bath, charters of incorporation are nuiſances, and a reſtriction on the general good of the ſubject, and that the police of a town is much worſe managed by men who have their little private piques and preferences, than by county juſtices of the peace, who, being men of liberal education, will better underſtand, and better execute the office, than ill-taught mechanics.

"That

"That in corporate towns, the man who has moſt ſenſe, moſt CUNNING, or which is better, moſt money, will lead the reſt of the members by the noſe, introduce whom he pleaſes, and impoſe any reſolutions which his wayward fancy may ſuggeſt, however arbitrary and unjuſt; and a corporation in this reſpect, though ſaid to be governed by ſix and twenty, really and actually becomes

"One-headed:

The conſequence of which will be

INSOLENCE,	PARTIALITY, and
INJUSTICE,	OPPRESSION.

"Further

"Further, they call on all the abetters of charters, and advocates for corporations, to produce any one of them ſo well regulated as the villages of Birmingham and Mancheſter, in which there is no corporation, though the inhabitants and even the alehouſes are far more numerous than they are in Bath.

"They ſay alſo, that now and then it happens a bad man is from ſiniſter motives choſen into ſome place of truſt and profit; for inſtance, to be town-clerk, and then the motives, as I ſaid before, of his coming into office being ſiniſter, or, in plain Engliſh, mercenary, all the tenants of ſuch corporation will be ſure to ſuffer

in their fees, and their leaſes when renewed.

" Licenſes to ale-houſes bringing conſiderable emolument, we ſhould ſee their number doubled, till like ſharks they devour one another. And if we could ſuppoſe ſuch a thing to happen at Bath, even the poor chairmen would be obliged to pay larger fees for filling up their licenſes, as well as a conſiderable douceur for admiſſion.

" Theſe, I ſay, I have heard mentioned as accuſations againſt the generality of corporations, and accounted a kind of petty larcenies which the law cannot puniſh or prevent. And added

added to all this, when once a bad man is admitted, he will in general get people enough, who from ſecrets of their own, or to ſhare the ſpoil, will take care to keep him in, whatever atrocious faults or enormities he may commit; even though he were as great an apoſtate as Judas, or as great a thief as Jonathan Wild.

—— "Quis talia fando
"Temperet a lacrymis?"

"There may be ſome truth, but there is alſo much ſpleen in theſe obſervations; for although Birmingham and Mancheſter may be well governed, yet a Weſtminſter juſtice is not a more reſpectable character than an alder-

man of Bath; who are all men of abilities, and men of education.

"But whatever may happen in future, or might have happened heretofore, the city of Bath will always, with the greateſt teſtimony of applauſe, give evidence of their admiration of the preſent worthy town-clerk,

The very Worſhipful

JOHN JEFFERYS, Eſq.

Who is every-where ſpoken of and renowned for his

INCORRUPTIBLE HONESTY,
UPRIGHT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE,
PRECISION,
KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW,
OBEDIENCE TO LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT,
And above all,
MODERATION IN HIS FEES.

"That

That as Sancho Pança is the example for Governors, ſo he may be an example of imitation to all the Town-clerks in the world.

"Oh, that my poor pen could confer immortality upon thee, thou very great, and very wonderful man! But thy deeds will out-live—I had almoſt ſaid—time itſelf.

"Non mihi bis centum linguæ, non ferrea labra
"Sufficerent, laudes cupienti aperire latentes."

"When thy parts and thy abilities are conſidered; when thy underſtanding is weighed, and withal, thy inſuperable humility and modeſty,

—— "With thee,
"Envy herſelf is glad to be at peace,
"Gives over, wearied with ſo high a flight,
"Above her reach, and ſcarce within her ſight."

* * * *
* * *

The PUMP-ROOM.

The Pump-Room was built for the accommodation of the company who come to Bath to drink the waters; and the preſents made by the drinkers to the pumper for three years, have been conſidered as a ſufficient proviſion for tradeſmen of good character who have been unfortunate in the world; but I fear the rapacity of the C——, by demanding too great

great a rent, will, one time or other, convert a good thing into a bad one.

As ſoon as we entered the room, the Genius took and placed me with the muſic, near the famous Timothy Ginnadrake, whoſe flaſhes of merriment are wont to ſet the table in a roar; but being inviſible, I could not have the pleaſure of entering into converſation with ſo famous a man; which I much regret, as I wanted to hear from his own mouth ſome of thoſe effuſions of fancy for which he is ſo celebrated.

However, to make amends, he gave us ſome good muſic, and now and

then ſomething like a ſpark of wit eſcaped from his lips in a pun.

We had here an opportunity of ſeeing all the company as they entered, and I expected to have ſeen at leaſt all the phyſicians of the place, and could not help expreſſing my diſappointment, as I wanted to be acquainted with their characters, and have their merits expoſed to my view without a veil.

"Formerly," ſaid the Genius, "the phyſicians of the place attended here to meet the company in a morning; and then a fee at coming, and a fee at going away, generally ſatisfied the phyſicians of that day. But

"Tempora

"Tempora mutantur, et hi mutantur in illis."*

"Phyſicians now expect a fee at leaſt every other viſit they make, which renders phyſic expenſive not only at Bath, but in every other place.

I ſaid, I have been told that the great Boerhaave's fee was only fourteen-pence, and yet I believe Dr. Moyſey would not be angry or affronted to ſee Boerhaave ranked with himſelf, although Dr. Moyſey has perhaps few equals.

The Genius replied, "Dr. Moyſey is one of thoſe few men who have made

* The Genius does not mind falſe accent.
Printer's Devil.

phyſic

phyſic their ſtudy, and is a proof of what application will produce, which was ſo great, that his Genius has confeſſed to me he could hardly accompany him through the paths of ſcience.

"I am well aware that it has been urged by ſome, that Moyſey is mercenary; others ſpeak very differently. The Genius of Moyſey is the friend of me, but I will not be partial in his behalf towards you. The real ſtate of the caſe is this:

"Moyſey is liable to the infirmities of human nature; for able as he is, he does not ceaſe to be a man; he has his prejudices for and againſt, and he is often in this reſpect guided, as

to

to intereſt. But it never was, nor ever will be known that he ſacrificed his patient to his rapacity, or debaſed his preſcription for the want of a fee.

"The AURI SACRA FAMES is not more conſpicuous, at leaſt not more blameable, in Moyſey than in others, who, even if they attain to a third of his practice, will never poſſeſs a tithe of his abilities.

"Dr. Moyſey has been a fortunate man; but if he ſhould die worth fourſcore thouſand pounds, he may be ſaid to have earned them. He never indulges himſelf to the detriment of his patient, but is always as

ſtudious

ſtudious and as much diſpoſed to ſerve his patients as himſelf.

"One day or other we may poſſibly make a viſit to each of the diſciples of Galen;—but at preſent the company here will take up our time and our care."

* * * *
* * *

"That jolly handſome man is Sir —— ——; his former name was ——, which he changed on marrying the heireſs of ——. He is a worthy man, who lives in the country reſpected and beloved, and in town without debauchery. His abilities

are

are good, his underſtanding ſound, and his principles without reproach. He is a gentleman of conſiderable property; and rather inclining to the character of an old Engliſh Baron than that of a modern courtier, is of very conſiderable weight and conſequence in the county in which he reſides. He is hoſpitable without extravagance, and œconomical without meanneſs.—You will ſeldom find a more reſpectable character than Sir —— ——."

"That other ſhort man with the ſlouched hat is a baronet, of the name of ——; but no more like the other, than I am like to Hercules. His whole ſoul is abſorbed in eating

or

or providing for the table; and yet ſo penurious, that he grudges to pay even for the ſauce of the veniſon he devours. His dreſs is like that of a ſtage-coachman, and his abilities of equal rank. He was once chairman at a county meeting; and a matter being propoſed which gave ſome offence to a part of the company, as either improper or ill-timed, one of the gentlemen moved the previous queſtion.

"The chairman not apprehending the purport of the motion, took no notice.

"Mr. Chairman, I beg you will "move the previous queſtion."

"The

" The chairman, half amazed and half offended, exclaimed,—" Why, " why, you would not have me move " the previous queſtion firſt, would " you?"

" He has been accuſed of a repartee, of which few will think him guilty. One day in the coffee-houſe, as ſome gentlemen were rather merry at his expence, " Look y', gentle- " men," he ſaid, " I deſire you will " not laugh at me; I came to Bath " not for your diverſion but my own."

" As Falſtaff ſays of rebellion, " Wit lay in his way and he found it."

" Obſerve

"Obſerve that man in the queue wig who has juſt taken off his ſpectacles,—that man's trade is religion."

Religion! I ſaid; perhaps then he is a bookſeller.

"Oh, no! He is the prime miniſter of the —— of ——, and chief director of her matters eccleſiaſtic at ——; and between her ——, and the proſelytes of the gate, he makes a pretty picking; for what with this, and now and then a deputation of truſt, a charitable donation and ſo forth, he lives in a ſtile which may be called genteel.

"He

"He has ſeveral underſtrappers officially concerned with himſelf, to whom he allows poundage, but has lately diſcharged one of the principal from his place of truſt, becauſe he took three ſhillings from the pound inſtead of two.

"Yonder little man in the clerical dreſs and brown wig, is the admired author of Eu*******e, which, if you have not read it, let me recommend to a place in your library; it is full of beautiful poetry, elegant deſcription, and unadulterated wit. If ever he is ſatyrical, it is contrary to the natural benevolence of his temper. And he inflicts puniſhment only that he may reclaim. He is of ſo amia-

ble a diſpoſition, that ſtuttering and ſpeaking thick, which nature made his blemiſh, will be imitated by little poetaſters, who can no otherwiſe arrive at his humour, and yet would be thought like him.

"So did a poet once write a tragedy, and called it after the manner of Shakeſpeare, in which the only reſemblance was,

"Good-morrow, Maſter Lieutenant!"

"That lady in pink ſattin, who is juſt come in, is Lady ******, whom you muſt have heard of as the writer of ſome agreeable letters from Italy. She

She is the wife of an Iriſh Baronet, but who conſtantly reſides near Bath.

"To prevent the frequent interruptions from company, which their proximity to Bath muſt occaſion, Lady ******, who is of a poetical turn, contrived to form in her houſe once a fortnight an aſſembly of poets and wits.

"From a Tuſculan Vaſe placed in a drawing-room are taken little poetical pieces, or jeu d'eſprits written on ſubjects previouſly given out by her Ladyſhip; and the author of the piece which has the greateſt merit is is honoured with a ſprig of myrtle.

"I am apt to think, that both Sir J. and Lady ******, promiſed themſelves more Attic entertainment than they really found, and that many go there who cannot in poetry diſtinguiſh between a tulip and a bulruſh; but however, it is innocent in its tendency; and among invalids is a good hour's amuſement, and relaxation from the tœdium vitæ.

"It is agreeable, and in this reſpect valuable,——The pieces have been ſelected and publiſhed, and the profits ariſing from the ſale, which were far from contemptible, given to the charity inſtituted for the relief of ſick paupers, of which Sir J. is preſident. Thus amuſement tends to virtue,

virtue, and the promotion of public good."

"That genteel man in grey with his hair tied behind, is a poetical benefactor to her Ladyſhip's vaſe; and perhaps the moſt celebrated. He had an univerſity education, entered into orders, and actually officiated as Deacon in a country pariſh. But he was a ſon of misfortune, and a poet: He has felt the rod of affliction. Many things which he has written have produced him more honour than profit; and he is now making an eſſay on the theatre in ſome characters of tragedy. I think he miſtakes his powers: Melancholy has marked him for her own; and the frowns of life

have impoſed a gloom on his mind which his nice feelings cannot throw off. I have attended at lectures in which he gave us detached pieces from favourite authors, and I muſt own, when I heard him, that I thought comedy his fortè, and that if he would but court her ſmiles, he would be a valuable attendant on Thalia."

"Yonder gentleman in the tambour waiſtcoat is the companion of almoſt every hypochondriac that comes to Bath; having an infallible remedy for every complaint from the apoplexy to the tooth-ache. Scarce a book in his library but which is interſected with ſcraps of paper on which are written preſcriptions for the maladies

maladies of his numerous friends. Nor are his labours confined to noſtrums of health, but family receipts of all kinds, from the roaſting of a ſparrow to the dreſſing of a turtle, are to be had of him, and teſtified by his own authority. He makes puff paſte, and Shrewſbury cakes; and at a ragout or a ſoup, the cook of Apicius would turn pale when compared with him."

Does he love eating?

"No; he is moderate enough in his diet; and though he underſtands the management of all ſorts of wine, from Tokay to Gooſeberry, he never drinks any himſelf. But he delights

in being buſy, and that buſineſs is of ſo trifling a nature, that it only makes him contemptible. The whole winter he ſpends in writing out his receipts and carrying them to his friends; and all the ſummer he ſpends in netting handkerchiefs or purſes, and drawing of patterns, for preſents to the ladies when the ſeaſon of Bath returns."

"Yonder young fellow in boots and ſilver buttons to his brown coat, is juſt come into the poſſeſſion of a large fortune on the death of his father, who would never expend a ſhilling on his education farther than a country ſchool in the village where he lived. He is about ſix and twenty, and

and except in the ſports of the field, is as ignorant as one of his father's poſtillions. He came to Bath to learn to be a gentleman without a poſſibility of acquiring either eaſe or politeneſs.

"He ſoon was marked for a pigeon; but he does not underſtand play, and will not learn, hating all diverſions and amuſements where horſes and hounds are excluded. This foible is however made a handle of, and he has juſt paid an hundred guineas for a horſe not worth five pounds, by a friend who parted with the horſe merely to oblige him, becauſe he well underſtands and knows how to value a good horſe. The owner was afraid

to

to ride him any longer, being unſafe and unſound; and it is very well if our ſpark does not get a broken bone the firſt time he rides a chace.

"The groom received ten guineas as his ſhare of the plunder; P——, who recommended and commended the horſe, received twenty; and the ſeller put the other ſeventy into his own pocket; and on the ſtrength of it, has ordered a dozen of claret from Phillott's, to treat a ſelect party at dinner this very day."

"Yonder gentleman is a philoſopher; that is, he is conſtantly trying experiments in electricity: He dances punch admirably, ſpreads out a feather,

ther, flaſhes his lightening, and knocks down a poor dog for diverſion. He opens his magic lantern, and expoſes his Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He makes ribbons for the ladies on writing-paper with a priſm. He lets fall a guinea and a feather in an air-pump. His room is hung with glaſſes which invert, enlarge, and diminiſh. The pendulum of his clock moves a little maſter and miſs at titter-totter. And ſometimes he entertains the ladies with the ſight of a worm picked out of his noſe through a microſcope, or gratifies their curioſity by ſhewing the turnpike roads in the moon through a teleſcope.

" He

"He is not only an experimental, but he is alſo a natural philoſopher; and a ſhell out of a lime-ſtone is of more value to him than a Queen Anne's guinea; and the poſſeſſion of a petrified antediluvian bone would give him more pleaſure than the fineſt woman in the world.

"Nor is he leſs of a chymiſt; a hundred proceſſes are trying; but none ſucceed. If you look into his ſtudy you will find it furniſhed with mattraſſes, alembics, crucibles, and cucurbits; in one corner halfpence are diſſolving in aqua fortis; in another, guineas in aqua regia; while the ſpaces are filled up with thermometers, barometers, globes, and a thouſand

thouſand curious baubles and nick-nacks.

"In ſhort; his houſe is one continued neſt of toys and play-things; and he is always diverting himſelf, or collecting together company to be diverted with them.

"Yet he is ſtiled a man of knowledge, and is in truth a modern philoſopher, or one, who fond of the means, does not trouble himſelf about the end or deſign; and is not unlike the countryman, who coming to a public-houſe to drink with a friend, ſtood without, gaping at a fine new-painted ſign, and ſuffered his companion to drink all the liquor."

"That

"That man now come in with his coat and waiſtcoat unbuttoned, is an attorney. He lives not two hundred miles from Pall-mall, and is a curious inſtance of verſatility and hypocriſy.

"When he left the ſervice of one Mr. Tyrrel, in which he had been engaged alternately as a copier of parchment, and cleaner of knives, and of ſhoes, he commenced a methodiſt and conveyancer, in an obſcure ſtreet in the Strand; refuſing to attempt a qualification as a regular attorney, becauſe of the chicanery of the law, and the ungodlineſs of law practice.

"During

"During this time of religious ſcruple and tenderneſs of conſcience, he uſed mortification and prayer like a good methodiſt; and ſo zealous was he, that in the midſt of winter he conſtantly attended the morning exerciſes of a devout brother at the farther end of Drury-Lane, to which he went through wet, froſt, and ſnow, by the help of a lantern.

"His abode was a little ſhop, in which he ſold ſome few articles of ſtationary, by way of adding ſomething to the ſmall gains of conveyancing, and in his ſhop or office, was fixed as a rule for his own conduct, and the edification of his cuſtomers, the following couplet:

"Let

"Let worldly wealth to other men be giv'n,
"I pray to thee, Lord Jesus Christ, in heaven."

"And now gradually growing a man of business, and very frugal withal, he saw that worldly wealth was a glittering thing; and finding the poverty of the people with whom he associated not quite advantageous enough, he in a little time commenced ******, perhaps to get rid of methoditical church expences, for in all his doings he out-did them both in cant and oblations. He soon by being acquainted with rich men became rich himself, and of consequence, purse-proud, and insolent.

"He

"He removed to the St. James's end of the town; and to qualify himself for a poſt under government, abjured his late acquired friends, and took the oaths accordingly. Nor, in all probability, would he heſitate to be circumciſed as a Jew or Mahometan, if Sultan Achmet would make him a Mufti."

I could not help ſaying to the Genius, that thoſe who entruſted their affairs into the hands of ſuch a man as that would, or ought to be cheated.

"Next to him in the blue coat and ſcarlet laced waiſtcoat, is ——— ———.

"This man paſſed his life in ſo abandoned and profligate a manner, that when he arrived at the middle-age of life, he did not, in the opinion of the world, remain in poſſeſſion of the ſmalleſt degree of virtue or honour.

"His conduct with reſpect to women was not only looſe and bareſaced, but perfidious, mean, and tricking. He was reſtrained by no conſiderations of private character, nor checked by any regard to public decorum. Frauds of the loweſt nature, enforced by perjuries and falſehoods, were his only arts.

"With

"With reſpect to men he early loſt every ſentiment of honour, and ſoon grew neceſſitous from the variety of his vices, as well as rapacious from the luſt of gratifying them: You ſee he looks old, and yet what Churchill ſays of Lothario may be aptly applied to him:

"Vices more than years have mark'd him grey."

"Turn your eyes to that elderly gentlemen in a pompadour coat; he is a conſtant reſident at Bath, and one of the moſt benevolent men of that or perhaps any other place.

"Look leſs upon the world, and "without thee," ſays ſome moraliſt,

"and turn thine eyes inward, and "find felicity there." That gentleman has long found this obſervation true. In the midſt of the world, he totally diſregards its falſe glare and fooliſh judgments: Prudent in his conduct, active in every duty, charitable and pious, he enjoys himſelf with the greateſt chearfulneſs and content; he is not guided by the opinion of the world, which he cannot always ſubſcribe to; and never takes any ſtep merely in conſequence of the judgment which the world will form of it.

"In matters of religion he is guided by the precepts of the Goſpel, and the dictates of his conſcience.

"In

"In matters of temporal concern he only conſiders if they are conſiſtent with his duty, and tending to his preſent and eternal happineſs; if it be, he ſteadily purſues it; if not, he declines it, without the leaſt regard to what this man may ſay, or that may think. Thus he has attained to a degree of peace and compoſure ſuperiour to any I remember, and well deſerves to be eſteemed a happy man."

"That venerable looking man juſt got out of a chair is Dr. ******, P—— of W——. He was the only ſon of the B— of M—, a prelate, whoſe character had been more than ſufficient to diſtinguiſh a deſcendant,

becauſe it could at once both enlighten and adorn a kingdom: But nurſed in the arms of virtue, and educated in the manſion of hoſpitality and independence, our virtuous divine was prepared to ſhine forth in himſelf, with underived and increaſing luſtre. He is well read both in books and men; as a preacher, dignified and eloquent; and, in his ſocial character, friendly and ſincere; a favourite attendant of a great and a good King, whoſe favour he eſteemed as the greateſt of all worldly honours. Thus in a ſphere of public uſefulneſs, protected by royal benevolence, he became a rare example of that firm and independent ſpirit, which, growing great within itſelf, could riſe ſuperiour to

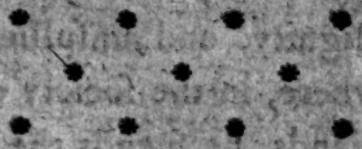
the

the bribe of a mitre; and when he chose to withdraw from a court, from which death had withdrawn the virtues of his sovereign, he retired with the testimony of a good conscience, and a calm resignation becoming his sacred character, to the distant asylum of real dignity, and unsullied reputation; where, in the society of a few chosen friends, he spends the evening of his life at Bath in tranquility and honour."

As soon as we had finished the characters at the Pump-room, the Genius told me, that he could not attend me any more for a month or two to come; as a matter was now in agitation, in which the welfare of Bath was mate-

 rially

rially concerned:—"When that is finiſhed," he ſaid, "if you wiſh at any time for further information, you know the cabaliſtic ſummons, and I will not fail to obey it."



A FRAGMENT

A FRAGMENT

for 1782.

YOUR apprehenſions are right. He is a clergyman, and becauſe he adds to his name theſe magical letters, LL. D. which acting like a taliſman, give ignorance the reputation and conſequence of literature; the world, ever in extremes, abſurdly calls him *dignified*.——As there is ſomething whimſical in his hiſtory, and which at the ſame time may afford a uſeful moral, I will give you a conciſe detail of it.

Though

Though an eccleſiaſtic, he is immoderately proud of the antiquities of his family; and with ſome reaſon, if his tables of deſcent are right: For Doctor Pugh (which is the preſent ſur-name) derives his pedigree from the antient Ap Hughs of Wales, who conſider all that date events by the chriſtian æra as mere upſtarts and funguſes of birth. For tracing their origin through vaſt complicated ſeries of Ap Hughs, under a variety of diſtinctions, up to anceſtors long preceding the deluge, they aſcertain events by the *year of the world* only.

This Doctor Pugh was the younger ſon of a gentleman of conſiderable property in the county of B—s; but his

his family being large, and his lands in ſettlement, the proviſions for the younger children were but ſmall, and inadequate to the ſtile in which they had been brought up. The emoluments, therefore, ariſing from profeſſions and trade, were judged neceſſary additions to paternal appointment; and accordingly divinity, law, phyſic, navy, army, merchandize, and office, were pointed out and embraced; as inclination, authority, or accident ſuggeſted.

Doctor Pugh was ſent to Oxford; and few, I believe, ever brought better pretenſions or qualifications to be admitted of All-Souls in that Univerſity than himſelf, as he was in the

fulleſt extent of the terms of admiſſion, "optimè natus—benè veſtitus "—mediocriter doctus."

After paſſing the uſual time, and going through the cuſtomary routine of exerciſe and inſtruction, he took Orders, and married an amiable young lady, the daughter of a B--f--dſhire baronet; who, though poſſeſſed of but a ſmall independence, eventually proved a great fortune to him.

The firſt ſtages, however, of matrimonial life, through the auſterity and moroſeneſs of her father, who diſliked the connexion, and the exility of their circumſtances, were rather irkſome and uneaſy. But on moving

to

to London, and ſettling there, matters ſoon put on a better complexion; for as he is a perſonable man, a rich old dowager made him her domeſtic chaplain, with a liberal allowance for duty. Hence he was enabled to extend appearances, and paſs for a man of taſte, figure, and faſhion, having an equipage and ſervants at his command, with a good table, and rich ſide-board.

As virtue, unleſs brought into action and put to trial, is but an empty unmeaning ſound, and the *vis inertiæ* of morality; Providence, after finding Poverty and Dependence an overmatch for his Prudence and Self-denial, raiſed him by the death of his wife's

wife's relations to a ſtate of permanent, ſubſtantial affluence and independence; to try if a ſenſe of his deliverance from worſe than Egyptian ſlavery would operate on his gratitude, whenever an occaſional recollection brought his former ſervitude and drudgery to his mind. But, alas! the unmerited favours of Providence ſerved only to whet his appetite for ſenſual pleaſures, in proportion as they enlarged his ability to purſue them.

Providence, however, though provoked by frequent repetitions of guilt, forbore all public reſentment of it; wiſhing to reclaim the libertine rather by the ſpontaneous operations

of

of his own mind, than by any extraordinary threats of Juſtice, or ſpecial inflictions of puniſhment.

But at length wearied out with long-ſuffering, and finding all farther connivance uſeleſs, the meaſure of his iniquity being alſo quite full, an open diſcovery of his laſcivity was ſuffered to take place; that ſhame, the laſt reſort of mercy to human obſtinacy in vice here, might be tried on the offender. And he has juſt received a public rebuke from C—— G——, for his indecent behaviour to a lady of character, who had invited him to take ſhelter in her houſe from a ſtorm of rain. Indeed, public decorum demanded ſuch a check; otherwiſe

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wiſe the public example would ſoon have degenerated into abſolute barbariſm and brutality.

Do you ſee that old lady there tottering in ſticks, upwards of ſeventy, amidſt a circle of friends, for ſake of ſafety from the attacks of this reverend debauchee; whoſe late enterprize with Mrs. F—— had ſo alarmed this matron's fears of the like predicament, that no arguments but the moſt peremptory aſſurance from her friends of the Doctor's receſs, could draw her till this day from her bedroom.

However, there is great reaſon to think this good lady's fears rather

ther visionary and premature; as the Doctor has given the strongest proofs of sincere contrition and penitence, by asking the lady's pardon, and calling on C—— G—— at his lodgings to thank him in the most pointed terms for the kindness and sincerity of his reproof; acknowledging but for this he might still have been tempted to continue the career of his follies without thought or reflection, in the danger of them to himself, and infelicity to others.

The acknowledgment of a fault is doubtless the least restitution an offender can make; but at the same time, it is a promising sign of grace, and shews that pride, which is the

chief impediment to ſpiritual reformation and improvement, is thoroughly humbled and ſubdued.

Hence then, it is to be hoped, that the Doctor, being ſenſible of his errors, as he has endeavoured to cancel the paſt by contrition, he will alſo guard againſt the future with vigilance and caution.

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FINIS.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM